

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) February 1998

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

0076000188

Boston N.

724

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 66 North St.

Historic Name Nichols Locke/Willard House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1837

Source Lexington Valuation lists

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite?

Wall/Trim Vinyl Siding

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Attached garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Side ell with additions (dates unknown)

Condition Fair

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 0.75 A.

Setting On a bend in a narrow historical street, across from conservation land, with new large houses behind it

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

66 North St. is one of a number of Federal houses in Lexington though is less intact than many due to its many additions and its artificial siding. The original part of the house is rectangular with a side ell, 2½ stories, five-by-two bays, and side-gabled with two tall rear chimneys in the main block and one in the ell. The side-gabled ell is two stories in height, has a bow window on the front, and is attached to a two-car garage. The foundation of the main block is not visible but is probably granite; the entire house is clad with vinyl siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. At the rear of the ell are several small, shed-roofed additions on fieldstone foundations, and at the rear of the main block is a shed-roofed, two-story bay surrounded on two sides by a one-story shed-roofed addition adjoining the ell. The center entrance in the main block has a paneled surround with half-length sidelights; windows are 6/6 double hung sash. On the facade of the main block are gabled dormers and a gabled projecting center bay whose second story overhangs the entry, meeting the line of a wraparound porch that has square pilastered posts.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

This house was *not* built by Stephen Locke (1778–1839) as has previously been thought, but *was* built in 1837 by Stephen's son Nichols Locke (1810–1887), for Lexington assessors' records indicate that Stephen Locke was not taxed for land until 1830 and never for a house. Nichols, on the other hand, was first taxed for land in 1835 and in 1838 his assessment was raised because he had a "new house," undoubtedly this one. Since the assessments were made in June of each year, the house had probably been built in 1837. In 1841 Nichols Locke was assessed for a house, barn, and 64½ acres and, with his brother Stephen, for three horses, two oxen, six cows, three swine, and one chaise. Nichols Locke was a milkman—someone who delivered the milk produced on his farm to customers on a regular route—and moved to Charlestown about 1850, selling this property in 1853. In 1870 the house, which was on an eight-acre lot east of North St., and its associated 77-acre farm west of North St. was purchased by a George B. Pierce of Dorchester. Pierce named the property Elmwood Farm, used it as a summer residence before moving to Lexington, and sold it in 1880 to John H. Willard. Willard was actively involved in the town, becoming a member of the Historical Society and the Belfry Club, and improved the farm. An 1890 description of Lexington noted that "the Willard place bears evidence of skillful and profitable farming, with its well-managed dairy and its enormous brood of 2000 chickens." The part of the farm west of North St. is now the town-owned Willard's Woods conservation land.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

- Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913. 2: 369, 372, 375.
- Hurd, D. Hamilton, ed. *History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1890. 606.
- Lexington Valuation Lists. 1820–1845.
- Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 667: 324; 1128: 67; 1532: 452.
- Sileo, Thomas P. Sileo. *Historical Guide to Open Space in Lexington*. Lexington, Mass.: Thomas P. Sileo, 1995. 106–09.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
66 North St.

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Roll #4, Negative #37